

IN THE UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT
FOR THE MIDDLE DISTRICT OF GEORGIA
ATHENS DIVISION

UNITED STATES OF AMERICA,

v.

LANEL CHAMBERS,

Defendant.

CRIMINAL ACTION NO.
3:22-cr-00025-TES-CHW-3

ORDER GRANTING CONSENT MOTION
FOR CONTINUANCE IN THE INTEREST OF JUSTICE

Before the Court is the Government's Consent Motion for Continuance in the Interest of Justice [Doc. 348]. On October 11, 2022, the Grand Jury returned a multi-defendant, multi-count Indictment charging Defendant Lanel Chambers with one count of Conspiracy to Distribute and to Possess with Intent to Distribute Heroin and Fentanyl. [Doc. 1]. On January 20, 2023, Defendant was arrested. On February 7, 2023, Defendant pled not guilty at his arraignment and was detained pending trial. [Doc. 111]; [Doc. 112]. On April 28, 2023, the Court issued an Order [Doc. 188] declaring this case complex due to the voluminous discovery, consisting of countless recordings, investigation reports, crime lab reports, and other electronic and tangible evidence. The Court has continued this case four times: first on February 14, 2023, then on March 15, 2023, next on June 22, 2023, and most recently on January 3, 2024. [Doc. 121]; [Doc. 155]; [Doc. 200]; [Doc. 239].

The Government filed this Motion seeking a fifth continuance. [Doc. 348].

According to the Government, Defendant's attorney "is lead counsel for the accused in *State of Georgia v. Quamarvious Nichols*, Case No. 22SC183572, which commenced trial on January 4, 2023, . . . [and] is expected to last several additional months." [Id. at p. 1]. The Government states that, because of defense counsel's "conflict in Fulton County Superior Court, he is unavailable to appear at the pretrial conference and trial before this Court as they are set." [Id.]. The Government represents that Defendant consents to this Motion. [Id. at p. 2].

The Court finds that granting the Government's request serves the ends of justice. The Court further finds that the ends of justice served by granting Defendant's request outweigh the interests of Defendant and the public in a speedy trial. Failure to grant a continuance would create a conflict whereby Defendant's counsel would be unavailable to represent him.

The Court also finds that two more factors weigh in favor of granting this Motion. First, the Court has already declared this case complex. [Doc. 188]; *see* 18 U.S.C. § 3161(h)(7)(B)(iv). And second, the Court has not yet had the opportunity to hold a hearing on Defendant's pending Motion to Suppress. [Doc. 238]; *see* 18 U.S.C. § 3161(h)(1)(D).

Thus, the Court **GRANTS** Defendant's Motion [Doc. 348] and **CONTINUES** the trial of this matter until July 22, 2024. Next, the Court **CONTINUES** the hearing on

Defendant's Motion to Suppress [Doc. 238] until July 2, 2024. The delay occasioned by this continuance shall be deemed excludable pursuant to the provisions of the Speedy Trial Act, 18 U.S.C. § 3161(h)(7)(A), 3161(h)(7)(B), and 3161(h)(1)(D).

SO ORDERED, this 30th day of May, 2024.

S/ Tilman E. Self, III

TILMAN E. SELF, III, JUDGE

UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT